

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KENYON R. PARTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenyon R. Parton, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 215, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kenyon has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kenyon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kenyon R. Parton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING DR. RADA MIHALCEA ON BEING AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Rada Mihalcea. Dr. Mihalcea is an engineering researcher from the University of North Texas who will be honored by the White House on January 13, 2010, for her groundbreaking research on understanding the meaning of text and her exemplary commitment to education and community service.

Dr. Mihalcea serves as an Associate Professor for computer science and engineering at UNT, which is located in Denton, Texas. She is among 100 university researchers nationwide who will receive the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers. This is one of the highest honors a scientist can receive in the United States.

Dr. Mihalcea's research focuses on finding a way to combine several different monolingual and multilingual lexical resources and integrating them into educational applications. Such applications could be useful in assisting Spanish-speaking individuals understand English texts by providing simpler synonyms or translations into English. This innovation is expected to make a huge impact on the local community and the Nation once successfully implemented.

Dr. Mihalcea will be the first professor from any university in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area to receive the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers. She was nomi-

nated by the National Science Foundation, who also awarded her the CAREER Award in 2008 for her work.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and congratulate Dr. Rada Mihalcea, a recipient of a 2010 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, and thank her for her outstanding academic achievements and continuing dedication to the University of North Texas. It is an honor to represent Dr. Mihalcea and the University of North Texas in the United States House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MAYOR HYLAND R. JOHNS

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Honorable Hyland R. Johns on the occasion of his retirement after 36 years of faithful service to the borough of Bryn Athyn, a close-knit community northeast of Philadelphia. I am honored to represent Mayor Johns and the entire Bryn Athyn community in Congress.

Before being elected to Bryn Athyn borough council in 1971, Mr. Johns served both as a volunteer with the Bryn Athyn Fire Company and as borough zoning officer. He was elected to the borough council in 1971 and one year later became vice president. Mr. Johns held the position of vice president until 1975 when he became borough council president. His service as president lasted for nine years until he was elected mayor. During his tenure as mayor, the borough of Bryn Athyn prospered.

Bryn Athyn is home to the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, Cairnwood, and Glencairn Museum. Under Mr. Johns' leadership, the historic district of Bryn Athyn—which contains these local landmarks—was officially designated a National Historic Landmark. As Mayor, Mr. Johns served as a charming, enthusiastic, informed ambassador to neighboring residents, communities, businesses, organizations, and leaders in the region, sharing the unique significance of Bryn Athyn's architecture and religious heritage.

Before his career as a local official, Mr. Johns faithfully served his country during the Second World War in the Navy's Construction Battalion. Mr. Johns went on to earn a graduate degree in Urban Forestry from Michigan State University. He is an active member of his church, has served on the board of the Academy of the New Church, and serves on the board of the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust. Under Mayor Johns' leadership, the Academy of the New Church has continued to expand, with the Mitchell Performing Arts Center opening in 2002.

Madam Speaker, once again I applaud Mayor Johns for his dedication, service and accomplishments as an elected official for

nearly four decades. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to him on the momentous occasion of his retirement from public office.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN LUTHER H. SMITH, JR., U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor today the memory of a great American hero, Captain Luther H. Smith, Jr., U.S. Army Air Forces, who will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, 15 January. Captain Smith was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, a highly decorated World War II prisoner of war, a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, the first African-American aerospace engineer hired by General Electric in its Missile and Space Operations in Philadelphia, a loving husband and father, and a longtime resident of Villanova, PA.

Captain Smith was born in Des Moines, Iowa on September 27, 1920. His early dreams to serve as a military aviator were fulfilled when he joined the U.S. Army Air Forces and began training at Alabama's Tuskegee Army Air Field and Tuskegee Institute. One of the first African Americans to become a licensed pilot, Captain Smith began his military career in 1943. He flew 133 combat missions with the 332nd Fighter Group as a combat fighter pilot over Europe. He was severely wounded on his last mission on Friday, 13 October 1944, and spent the next seven months in enemy hospitals and prison camps before being liberated in May 1945 by the Allied forces. During his distinguished military career, Captain Smith destroyed 2 German aircraft in aerial conflicts and 10 aircraft in ground strafing attacks. Captain Smith was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War Medal, and 8 European Theater Campaign Ribbons.

After retiring from the U.S. Army Air Forces, Captain Smith completed his engineering education at the University of Iowa, earning a B.S. in mechanical engineering. He was hired by General Electric where he was involved in projects for the Air Force, the Navy Submarine Command, and NASA. His work included missile and jet engine design and he published numerous papers and was awarded two patents.

Following his retirement from GE in 1988, Captain Smith was active in support of local civic causes, serving as the vice-chairman of the Radnor Township (PA) School Board and on the Board of the Delaware County (PA) Community College.

He also was instrumental in capturing the history of the Tuskegee Airmen—so that present and future generations of Americans

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

could understand their significance. He believed passionately that "racial equality in America started in the skies over Europe." He and two other Tuskegee Airmen were featured in the 2006 Documentary "On Freedom's Wings: Bound for Glory, the Legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen" which was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum in Media, PA. He also designed the plaque dedicated in memory of the Tuskegee Airmen in Arlington National Cemetery. In May 1995, he was selected by President Bill Clinton to represent the U.S. Air Force for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of VE Day, and he accompanied President Clinton and Vice-President Gore to Europe.

Captain Smith was a member of a unique group of men who possessed an unabashed devotion to this nation and a belief in the strength of American values, even at a time when their country's laws failed to reflect the values for which they fought.

On Friday, at 9:05 AM, the First Fighter Wing from Langley Air Force Base will offer the ultimate recognition of Captain Smith's service to this nation. Like Captain Smith, throughout its storied history, the U.S. Air Force First Fighter Wing has been a trailblazer—leading the way in bringing new fighters operational. Four F-15 fighter jets will fly over the internment services for Captain Smith. In the words of Captain Smith's son Gordon—"I would like to think that my Dad will be beaming with joy and appreciation."

To Captain Smith's widow, Lois G. Smith, his son Gordon and daughter Deborah, I offer this tribute. As this nation prepares to honor the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, it is fitting that we also honor the memory of Captain Luther H. Smith, Jr.—like Dr. King, a great American hero who fought to realize America's commitment to freedom for all.

31ST ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 16, 2010, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: Ms. Ella Bush, Ph.D., Mr. Charles Deggans, Mr. Arthur Hoyle, Reverend R.T. Mitchell, and Mr. Linus Scott. Additionally, our distinguished State Senator Earline Rogers and Ms. Era C. Twyman will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, an award given out annually to outstanding individuals of the Gary community, while Mr. Claude Powers will be recognized as the 2009 Frontier of the Year.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers: President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President James Piggee, Secretary Melvin Ward, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, as well as Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay, Videographer Otho Lyles, Master of Ceremony Alfred Hammonds, the honorees, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

HONORING MILTON VARDEMAN PADGETT

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Milton Vardeman Padgett on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Vardeman was born January 13, 1910 in the Blackland community in Northeast Mississippi to John and Hulda Padgett.

At a young age, Vardeman fell in love with the game of basketball and played at Jumpertown. To this day, he enjoys watching basketball and has become a devoted fan of the Memphis Grizzlies. Vardeman worked as a carpenter for Fisher Aircraft in Memphis during WWII, but worked as a farmer throughout his life.

Vardeman married Margaret Geno Padgett and was a devoted husband for 65 years until her death in 1996. Mr. and Mrs. Padgett reared two children, Harrell Padgett and Janie Padgett McCall. He also has four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Vardeman still lives in his home in Jumpertown, Mississippi and is being cared for by his daughter Janie. He says his longevity in life is attributed to always honoring his father and mother. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Vardeman Padgett on his 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN LUCAS, DIRECTOR OF JAMES A. HALEY VETERANS' HOSPITAL AND CLINICS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Stephen Lucas, the director of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics in Tampa, Florida, who is retiring after a distinguished 37 years of federal and military service. As the director of Haley Veterans' Hospital, Mr. Lucas oversaw one of the largest veterans' health care systems in the United States, comprised of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and the associated outpatient clinics affiliated with the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

Mr. Lucas, a Navy veteran who served on the USS *Iwo Jima* and in Vietnam, began his VA career in 1974 and since has served at multiple VA medical centers across the United States. Mr. Lucas also worked in the private sector, including as the senior hospital consultant with Sun Health, Inc., as the director of management engineering at the Madisonville Regional Health Center in Kentucky, and at the Baton Rouge General Hospital in Louisiana.

During Mr. Lucas's tenure at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, he received awards recognizing his significant achievements and leadership skills, including the 2009 Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence award. Additionally, during his tenure at the Miami VA Medical Center and Clinics, the Medical Center received the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award for providing the highest quality of care, as well as the Governor's Sterling Award, which recognizes organizations that have achieved performance superiority within their establishment.

I also would like to recognize the contributions of Mr. Lucas's family, including his wife Sheri, his daughter Amanda and his two sons, Mathew and Thomas. The commitment by Mr. Lucas to the Haley Veterans' Hospital meant sacrifices from his family. Those sacrifices are highly appreciated by the veterans' community served by the hospital.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Lucas is a true American hero who should be recognized for his outstanding military service, as well as his exemplary career. Haley's Veterans' Hospital has truly been blessed to have such a worthy and honorable citizen as its director. I wish him well on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BUTLER COUNTY ON THEIR 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Butler County in the First Congressional District of Kentucky on their 200th Anniversary. This momentous occasion not only celebrates the rich history of Butler County, but the many thousands of residents who

over the years have made it a vibrant and thriving community.

Butler County was formed on January 18, 1810 and was named for General Richard Butler, a Revolutionary War soldier. With the introduction of a navigation system for the Green and Barren Rivers in the 1830's, a new mode of transportation in the area began and brought with it many new people to the area including merchants, miners, loggers, river workers, engineers and carpenters.

The Civil War slowed development of the county. Following the war, former soldiers from both sides joined together to raise funds for a Civil War Monument that was dedicated in May 1907. The monument is believed to be one of the only two existing memorials which honors both Confederate and Union soldiers.

Today, Butler County attracts many tourists who come to visit the historic sites of the area, steamboat era museum, Green River and many other attractions. The county also hosts the Green River Catfish Festival every year. Anglers from around the country travel to Butler County to try and catch one of the numerous tagged catfish released into the river for cash prizes. The top prize is \$50,000.

To commemorate the county's 200th Anniversary, community leaders and residents of Butler County have planned a year's worth of events to educate Kentuckians about the history of Butler County and celebrate its residents and culture. A book entitled Butler County, Kentucky—History and Families is also being compiled which features stories about communities and families in Butler County as written by residents. It is my privilege to represent Butler County in the U.S. House of Representatives and I hope my colleagues in Congress will join me in celebrating this community and its residents.

HONORING CHUCK MACK

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chuck Mack of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. On January 15, 2010, the Teamsters Joint Council 7 will host a Testimonial Dinner in San Francisco, California, honoring Chuck's exemplary career in the labor movement.

Chuck joined the Teamsters in the summer of 1960 as a Del Monte seasonal worker, and continued as a loader and driver for Garrett Trucking for four years. In 1966, Chuck was elected business agent at Teamsters Local 70 and was re-elected in 1969. In 1971, at the request of the Teamster leadership, Chuck served as a lobbyist in Sacramento for the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council. He returned to Local 70 the following year and was elected secretary-treasurer and served in that capacity until June 2009.

He became president of Joint Council 7 in 1982 and served in that position until June 2009, making him the second longest-serving Joint Council president. In 1998 he was elected vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Western Region. He was re-elected to this office in 2001 and 2006.

Chuck was appointed IBT director of Port Division in 2003 and remained in this position

until June 2009. As port director, he built a powerful coalition of labor, community, environmental and interfaith groups to fight for economic justice for drivers and environmental justice for communities. Since 1981, he has served as a Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trustee and became co-chair in 2009.

Chuck Mack's commitment to labor and to the welfare of others has earned him the deep respect of his members and others. To quote Chuck, "the most rewarding part of this job has always been the members. Meeting with them one-on-one and listening to what they have to say, providing strong representation so that they have good jobs with good wages, good health care and a strong pension . . . jobs that provide for them and their families."

I join Chuck Mack's colleagues and friends in honoring his contributions and his continuing service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to illness, I missed 30 votes on December 9, 2009 through December 11, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On H. Res. 955, Providing for consideration of H.R. 4213, the Tax Extenders Act, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 955, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 4213, the Tax Extenders Act, on agreeing to the resolution, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 3951, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Louisiana Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the Roy Rondono, Sr. Post Office Building, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4213, Tax Extenders Act of 2009, Table Appealing of the Ruling of the Chair, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4213, Tax Extenders Act of 2009, on passage, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 3603, To rename the Ocmulgee National Monument, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 956, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives, markets, and for other purposes, on agreeing to the resolution, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 86, To eliminate an unused light-house reservation, provide management consistency by bringing the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 961, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3288) making appropriations for the De-

partments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 961, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3288) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, on agreeing to the resolution, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 3288, Making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, HUD, and related agencies for FY 2010, on agreeing to the conference report, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4017, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 43 Maple Avenue in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, as the Ann Marie Blute Post Office, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 962, Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, on agreeing to the resolution, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 964, Providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes, on agreeing to the resolution, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Frank of Massachusetts amendment No. 1, as modified, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Sessions of Texas amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted no.

On H.R. 4173, Lynch of Massachusetts amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Murphy of New York amendment No. 6, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted no.

On H.R. 4173, Frank of Massachusetts amendment No. 7, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4174, Stupak of Michigan amendment No. 8, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Stupak of Michigan amendment No. 9, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Kanjorski of Pennsylvania amendment No. 12, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, McCarthy of California amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted no.

On H.R. 4173, Peters of Michigan amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Marshall of Georgia amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Schakowsky of Illinois amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Minnick of Idaho amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted no.

On H.R. 4173, Bachus of Alabama Substitute Amendment, as Modified, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted no.

On H.R. 4173, The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, I would have voted no.

On H.R. 4173, The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009, on passage, I would have voted yes.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDY SUMNER

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness by the passing away of a great leader and native Mississippian, Mayor Judy Sumner. Mayor Sumner, 58, died Saturday, January 9, 2010, at her home.

During her mayoral tenure, she guided the town toward resolution of a debt crisis with the Internal Revenue Service and a host of other creditors while helping to coordinate celebrations of Como's musical and ethnic heritage and its Main Street business revival.

Mayor Sumner was a devoted wife to Mike Sumner and mother to her four children, Courtney Collins, Wendy Bailey, Sassene Dyer and Nick Sumner. Madam Speaker, with distinct honor and pride, I along with the citizens of Como, Mississippi, sadly mourn the death of such an inspirational leader and Mississippian. I want to personally thank her for all her contributions. Her memory will live on.

TRIBUTE TO THE ST. FRANCIS PARISH SCHOOL

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a well-respected parochial school in my community. St. Francis Parish School, located in Bakersfield, California is celebrating 100 years of education this upcoming April.

The St. Francis Parish School has a unique history. Started by the Sisters of Mercy in 1910, the school consisted of two classrooms in the basement of a church. After sixteen years of various makeshift learning environments, an actual school structure was constructed, and in 1940 the St. Francis High School was created which gave the two schools a combined K-12 presence. In 1943, the Sisters of Mercy were unable to staff a high school and lower school, so they delegated the Dominican sisters of the Congregation of St. Thomas of Aquinas, Diocese of Seattle to take over the St. Francis students. The present location of St. Francis Parish School was opened in 1952, and the Dominican Sisters continued to run the school until 1978. After changing hands once more in 1978 to a different sister group, the school is presently operated by lay teachers and one Mercy Sister. It is fitting that the staff has come full circle to include this one Mercy Sister.

Today, St. Francis Parish School has a pre-school through eighth grade platform that serves 586 students. The school's curriculum

has grown to add computer technology, and grades 2-8 have smart boards, internet capability, and sound systems in every classroom. Growing with demand, the school has evolved to include Spanish, art, and music. Additional teachers have been added to St. Francis' staff to teach these new curriculums, and yearly textbook updates occur in every class in order to maximize the school's educating potential.

Most importantly, St. Francis Parish School pushes its students to be lifelong active leaders and responsible citizens. Every age group is required to do community service through both class service projects and quarterly school service projects. An array of community service organizations welcome the school's generosity such as the American Heart Association, the Cancer Society, Mercy Beyond Borders, the Homeless Center, Catholic Charities, Mercy Hospital, Lion's Club, SPCA, the Valley Achievement Center, Alpha Canine, and St. Faustina's. For 100 years, St. Francis Parish School has instilled high leadership, faith, and service qualities throughout its students.

St. Francis Parish School is a keystone of our educational community that measures success in its loyalty from generations of students. I thank St. Francis for its 100 years of service to the people of Bakersfield and wish them the very best in its next 100 years.

A TRIBUTE TO LUCY GLENN TAYLOR

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a distinguished lady of Kentucky, Lucy Glenn Taylor. A third generation funeral home director and community leader, Lucy lived her life by the philosophy "always be kind to others," a motto which translated into her daily life.

Lucy dedicated her life to others starting at a young age. During World War II Lucy organized and managed funeral services while members of her family were in military service. Many have said that she even helped move caskets from time to time.

Lucy went on to become the director of her family's funeral home in 1978 and it was her notorious kind demeanor that inspired her children to continue the family business. Lucy always took the time to get to know those who used her family's services and was a well-loved and respected member of the community.

Once named the First Lady of the Year by Beta Sigma Phi International Service Sorority, Lucy took on several leadership roles within her community. She was a member of the Pilot Club for 50 years, during which she once served as president, and served on the board of directors for the Elizabeth Munday Center and Kentucky Wesleyan College. Among other organizations, Lucy was involved with the Junior League of Owensboro, Wendell Foster Bazaar, the Isaac Shelby Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was also a member and former president of the Franklin School PTA.

Always poised yet genuine, those who had the privilege of meeting Lucy Glenn Taylor

never forgot her. Lucy never intended to draw attention to her acts of kindness. To the contrary, she would quietly extend a hand to those in need.

Sadly, on Monday, January 4, 2010, Lucy Glenn Taylor passed away in her home at the age of 88. I join with her family, friends, and confidants in mourning her loss. Although we may have lost one of the Commonwealth's most loyal friends, Lucy's legacy will continue through the countless number of people whose lives she touched.

GARY NICHOLS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize Gary W. Nichols for his outstanding service to his country, and to congratulate him on receiving his honorary high school diploma from North Kansas City High School in North Kansas City, Missouri.

Gary dropped out of high school in 1954 to join the United States Navy. He would have been a member of the graduating class of 1956. Gary was a career serviceman from 1954-1974 and served on several destroyers and carriers during the Vietnam War. He attained the Rank of E-5.

Gary has earned the gratitude and respect of his fellow veterans and fellow citizens of Kansas City, Missouri. He has served as the Post Commander as well as the District 3 Commander for the American Legion. His life's dedication and hard work should serve as an example to the rest of us on how we can better serve each other and our great nation.

Gary is originally from Kingsville, MO, but he now lives in Kansas City with his wife Shirley, where he is the proud father of seven children and step-children, 22 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Gary W. Nichols on the occasion of receiving his honorary high school diploma on January 30, 2010. I would also like to thank North Kansas City High School for providing Gary with the degree he would have received had he not left school to fight for his nation. I know Gary's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to his country and wishing him happiness and good health in his future endeavors.

COMMENDING HAMILTON STEPHENS WINTERS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend a distinguished student, Hamilton Stephens Winters, on his achievement of Eagle Scout, awarded January 9, 2010.

For nine years, Hamilton has been active in scouts. Prior to completing Cub Scouts in 2006, Hamilton received the Arrow of Light

Award, which is the highest award a Cub Scout can earn.

After completing the Cub Scout program, Hamilton joined Boy Scout Troop 66. During his tenure in the Boy Scouts, Hamilton has earned 37 merit badges, far surpassing the 21 merit badges that are required. This accomplishment is all the more impressive, considering Hamilton is only 14 years old.

Hamilton is a model citizen amongst the youth in our country and my district. His proven leadership and remarkable accomplishments have truly made his family and community proud. I am confident that Hamilton will use the skills he has acquired for the rest of his life as tools for the betterment of his community, state and country. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hamilton Stephens Winters on this monumental achievement.

DR. CINDY STEVENSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. Cindy Stevenson, superintendent of Jeffco Public Schools for her selection as finalist in the 2010 Superintendent of the Year. Of the 49 state-level finalists only four nominees are chosen. This program along with ARAMARK Education, ING and the American Association of School Administrators celebrates the contributions and leadership of top public school superintendents like Dr. Stevenson.

Dr. Stevenson's service to Jefferson County schools has helped with the development of its teachers and educational leaders. She has always held a strong focus on student achievement, improving teaching and learning, creating community partnerships and focusing on continuous improvement for all Jefferson County schools. The work of a superintendent like Dr. Stevenson has resulted in a number of successful academic communities in Jefferson County.

To reach this point in the nomination process Dr. Stevenson was required to fulfill a list of rigorous criteria. Among the qualifying factors Dr. Stevenson had to exemplify creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in the school system, exemplary strength in both personal and organizational communication, a constant improvement of administrative knowledge and active participation in local community activities. Dr. Stevenson has met and exceeded this criteria and her nomination and successes confirm this.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dr. Stevenson for her selection as finalist for the 2010 Superintendent of the Year. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CORPORAL JAMES SZUBA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Corporal James

Szuba, a nearly eight year veteran of the Mishawaka Police Department, who gave his life in the line of duty.

On Saturday, January 9, 2010, an intoxicated driver, in the act of fleeing from a pursuing officer, struck Corporal Szuba's patrol car as he was responding to a call for assistance. On board was his eight-year-old canine partner, a German Shepherd named Ricky, who was also killed upon impact.

Mishawaka Police Assistant Chief Mike Samp noted "He was very dedicated. He was one of those officers who would step up and help an officer if they needed anything. He was an outstanding officer who is going to be greatly missed around here." In 2004 he and three fellow officers were presented the Officer of the Year Award by the Indiana Council of Fraternal, Veterans and Social Societies after they rescued a five-year-old boy from drowning in a frozen neighborhood pond. Cpl. Szuba also received several letters of commendation and his performance evaluation noted that he "is one of the most dependable and trustworthy officers . . . he has leadership skills and is well respected by his peers and supervisors."

James followed a family tradition of service; his late father, Floyd, was an officer and his brother, John, is a sergeant with the nearby South Bend Police Department. Cpl. Szuba was trained in patrol tactics and narcotics searches. He was also an Indiana Law Enforcement Academy firearms instructor for the Mishawaka Police Department.

Corporal Szuba leaves behind his mother, Gerri, his wife, Debbie, a son, Joshua and daughter, Stephanie, two brothers and two sisters as well as many friends, relatives and fellow officers. Madam Speaker, we grieve for the loss of Corporal James Szuba. Let us always value that America's police officers serve to protect our country, day in and day out, regardless of the dangers they face. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

CELEBRATING VALDOSTA,
GEORGIA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 150th birthday of Valdosta, Georgia. This impressive milestone allows us to take the time to celebrate the city's progress over the past 150 years.

Valdosta was incorporated as a town in 1860, when Troupville, the previous Lowndes County seat, relocated to follow the expanding railroad. The city of Valdosta is home to more than 46,000 people, as well as Moody Air Force Base, where President George W. Bush received his National Guard flight training. Valdosta is commonly referred to as the "Azalea City," as the red, pink, and white plants bloom in abundance throughout the city, especially in the spring.

According to tradition, the first train came over the new road to Valdosta on July 4, 1860. Willis Allen was designated as the first manager of the railroad, which was then called Savannah, Florida, & Western and later became part of the Atlantic Coast Line. Valdosta

was primarily an agricultural city, and with time it became the largest inland market for Sea Island cotton in the world, until the boll weevil beetle eliminated the crop in 1917. Today, Valdosta's agriculture consists mainly of row crops such as tobacco, cotton and peanuts.

Valdosta has been the home of many skilled athletes, which earned the town the 2008 "Tittletown, USA" award by ESPN. With 14 national titles, 47 conference titles, 99 state titles, and 289 region titles, Valdosta has certainly earned this honor. Valdosta has also thrived in the artistic realm. A number of comedians, actors, and musicians have emerged from Valdosta. The original "Jingle Bells" tune was even composed by one of Valdosta's music teachers, James Lord Pierpont. Valdosta's symphony orchestra—composed of local artists, students, and professors at Valdosta State University—attracts guest performers of international reputation. The Arts and Balloon Festival, held in April, serves to celebrate all of these artistic endeavors.

Whether you are admiring the beauty of Valdosta at the annual Azalea festival in March, watching one of the city's athletes perform on the national stage, or simply encountering friendly faces as you pass through one of Valdosta's many parks and historic districts, the city is no doubt a captivating one. From its birth in 1860 until today, the year of its Sesquicentennial Celebration, Valdosta has remained one of the nation's greatest and most productive cities. It is one of the many cities that keep Georgia on the mind, and I am proud to celebrate its history with you today.

HOPE FOR HAITI

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest sympathy to the people of Haiti as they cope with the aftermath of yesterday's massive earthquake. The tremendous loss of life and the untold devastation has left the capital of Port-au-Prince in ruins and countless families facing the untold horrors of loved ones injured or killed. This earthquake has shown us nature's worst.

The world's response to this awful tragedy will demonstrate the best of human nature. Many people will offer relief and assistance, through time and money. As we have always done in times of international disaster, the United States is sending aid to Haiti, including Fairfax County's Urban Search and Rescue Team 1 (USAR Team 1), which deployed this morning.

USAR Team 1 is one of two urban search and rescue teams nationwide that report to the U.S. Agency for International Development—Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance for humanitarian deployments. This highly trained rescue team has deployed to numerous locations across the globe, saving lives in areas such as Armenia, Indonesia, Romania, Kenya, Bolivia, Oklahoma City, and the Pentagon, providing critical lifesaving rescues, especially in building collapse situations.

In this terrible time of tragedy, Fairfax County's USAR Team 1 represents the best that America has to offer, hope and a commitment

to helping those in need. I commend the men and women of USAR Team 1 on their heroic efforts, mourn for those who lost their lives and pray for those awaiting aid.

**SALUTING THE ATHLETES OF THE
2010 WINTER GAMES OF TEXAS**

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding athletes of the fifth annual Winter Games of Texas.

This multi-sport youth athletic event is patterned after the international Olympic Games and presented by The Texas Amateur Athletic Federation, a nonprofit organization established in 1925 to promote, organize and conduct amateur athletics in Texas.

The sports festival serves as an excellent showcase of the talented young athletes of Texas. More than 4,500 young people will participate in this year's competition.

An exciting Celebration of Athletes program will be held, featuring games, live entertainment, professional athletes, and past Olympic heroes.

Fourteen different sporting events are included in the contest this year: soccer, basketball, table tennis, wrestling, cheerleading, swimming, flag football, ice hockey, figure skating, volleyball, fencing, bowling, rock climbing, karate, and gymnastics.

I commend each of the athletes who will be competing in these sports. Their hard work, dedication and passion will serve them well in all aspects of life.

I would also like to thank the City of Frisco, including their fine leader, Mayor Maher Maso, the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation, and all the volunteers throughout this city and state who have expended their time and energy to prepare for this great event.

I wish all participants and volunteers an enjoyable and successful tournament.

Let the games begin!

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
RICHARD J. ZUNT**

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Richard J. "Dick" Zunt, dedicated father, uncle, journalist and friend, whose amazing life reflected love for family, community and journalistic excellence. As a high school sports beat reporter, he consistently captured the energy, action and emotion of games played throughout Greater Cleveland. From amazing triumphs, to shocking defeats, to predictable endings, Mr. Zunt's reporting was always accurate, compassionate, and respectful—and held the interest and imagination of tens of thousands of readers.

Though a talented reporter, it was Mr. Zunt's kind demeanor, great sense of humor and generous heart that drew others to him.

He lived his life by the Golden Rule, reaching out to help wherever needed. He grew up in Cleveland, instilled with values of hard work, service to community and an unmistakable joy for life. A talented athlete himself, Mr. Zunt ran track at St. Ignatius High School, graduating in 1950. As a student reporter at John Carroll University, Mr. Zunt began honing his journalistic skills as a reporter for the university paper, the "Carroll News." He graduated from John Carroll in 1955, then served two years in the United States Navy. In 1957, following his military service, Mr. Zunt joined The Plain Dealer, where he worked as a sports reporter, with an emphasis on high school sports, until his retirement in 2001.

Throughout his tenure at The Plain Dealer, Mr. Zunt made countless friends, many of whom remained close friends throughout his life. His honest approach, unwavering integrity and caring nature forged life-long bonds of trust, friendship and admiration with coaches, players, school administrators and colleagues. He was very active in the community, serving on several community, press and educational boards—and was an active alumnus of St. Ignatius High School. Though not impressed with awards and accolades, Mr. Zunt's many achievements were publicly recognized. He was inducted to the St. Ignatius Hall of Fame, the Greater Cleveland Softball Hall of Fame, and the Cleveland Press Club Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Richard J. "Dick" Zunt, whose love for family and friends, service to community and joy for living will be remembered always. I offer my deepest condolences to his loving children, Mary "Cal," Monica, Sarah, and Richard J. Jr.; to his daughters-in-law, Brooke and Ethel; to his sons-in-law, Mike and Ruben; to his brothers, J. Raymond and Robert; to his sister Mary; to his dear companion, Doris; and to all his extended family members and numerous friends. Mr. Zunt's life—defined by kindness, joy, talent and a compassionate heart—will forever live in the minds and hearts of his family, friends and all whom knew and loved him well—and he will never be forgotten.

**A TRIBUTE TO KAREN ANDE AND
RUTHANN RICHTER**

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two Bay Area women, Karen Ande and Ruth Richter, and their compelling book *Face to Face, Children of the AIDS Crisis in Africa*.

This very special work was conceived after Karen Ande and Ruthann Richter travelled to Africa in 2004. They were devastated by the plight of children living under staggeringly brutal conditions, often without food, education or a stable, caring adult in their lives. Many of the children had watched their parents die and then had to cope with the consequences of living alone or with little support. They resolved to bring the issue to light and their book is the vehicle they chose to accomplish this goal.

The following words in praise of the book by Philip Pizzo, M.D., Dean of the Stanford University School of Medicine, a specialist in pe-

diatric AIDS and one of the 14th Congressional District's most distinguished and effective leaders, are an eloquent statement about the book and its subject.

"Ruthann Richter and Karen Ande have given a new voice and face to this pandemic, which continues to destroy the hopes, dreams and lives of children. Through compelling and poignantly informed stories and narratives and incredibly sensitive and touching portraits of children, families, providers and communities, Richter and Ande remind us, in a deeply personal way, how important HIV remains in Africa and beyond."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Karen Ande and Ruthann Richter for their extraordinary work and their efforts to bring to our attention the continuing ravages of the AIDS virus on the children of Africa.

GOVERNOR ALBERT ROSELLINI

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Governor Albert Rosellini, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on January 21, 2010. Gov. Rosellini was elected to the Washington State Senate in 1938, and served honorably as Washington State's governor from 1957 to 1965. Ultimately, this man has always worked as a servant and leader for his family, community and State.

As a 29-year-old law school graduate from Tacoma, Washington, Governor Rosellini began his career early, serving in the Washington State Senate in 1938 and championing issues ranging from forward-looking transportation policy to juvenile justice. He was an advocate for working families and never missed an opportunity to improve the lives of his constituents. Later, as Governor, Rosellini played an important role in starting one of our nation's finest medical schools at the University of Washington. He also helped create the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge—a bridge that now bears his name. The type of leadership that helped build the Floating Bridge is typical of Gov. Rosellini: visionary and decisive.

Additionally, Governor Rosellini's ascension to the Governorship of Washington was a seminal moment in the illustrious history of Roman Catholic Italian-Americans and he remains a leader in that community to this day.

A Seattle columnist wrote in 2005 that Governor Rosellini "makes most governors after him look like slackers." Madam Speaker, Gov. Rosellini served Washington with a steely determination, with the cares, concerns, and best interest of all Washingtonians in his mind and heart at all times. It is my distinct honor to recognize him and his countless contributions to the great state of Washington, and to challenge us all to aspire to serve in the same way he has throughout his distinguished life and career.

Along with this House, I wish Mr. Rosellini a happy 100th birthday and thank him for his dedicated public service.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO ESTABLISH 10-YEAR TERM
FOR TSA ADMINISTRATOR

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to establish a 10-year term of office for any individual appointed to serve as the administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, TSA, akin to the appointment process for the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI.

The failed Christmas Day bombing of a U.S. airliner points to the need for strong, capable leadership at TSA. It is essential that the agency be independent of political influence and focus on its core mission: to protect "the Nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce." Given the continued threat from al Qaeda to U.S. and international aviation, it is essential that the TSA administrator has bipartisan support.

I believe a 10-year term for the administrator of TSA will help provide the agency with the qualified, long-term and independent leadership it needs at this time. Over the last 9 years since TSA's creation following 9/11, TSA has had six administrators—averaging terms of just 1.5 years. This is hardly the stable and committed leadership that the agency should have, given its critical role in ensuring the safety of our citizens and aviation infrastructure. It simply does not make sense for the position to change hands with each new administration or even sooner.

This bill further strengthens our Nation's homeland by ensuring stable leadership at the Department of Homeland Security and freeing that the TSA administrator to assure agency professionalism over political fidelity. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNITION FOR CHIEF ROBERT
W. GILBERT, U.S. BORDER PATROL

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert W. Gilbert, who is leaving his position as Chief Patrol Agent of the United States Border Patrol Tucson Sector to become the Department of Homeland Security Attaché in Mexico.

As the representative of one of only ten congressional districts on the U.S.-Mexico border, I have worked closely with Chief Gilbert in the ongoing effort to secure our border. Chief Gilbert has been relentless in his pursuit of this goal, and for that, every American owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

During his time in Tucson, Chief Gilbert never lost sight of the fact that our border is more than a boundary separating two nations. He knows that our border with Mexico is a conduit for trade through which hundreds of millions of dollars of vital goods and services flow each year. He is also acutely aware of the negative impact on local residents, ranch-

ers and businesses caused by the criminal cartels that smuggle people and drugs across the border and into our communities.

Chief Gilbert followed his father into the Border Patrol and has carried out assignments in San Diego, El Paso and on the Canadian border. In March 2007, he was named Chief Patrol Agent of the Tucson Sector, the Nation's largest and most active border region.

Chief Gilbert supervises more than 3,200 agents who patrol 262 miles of international border. The agents who work for him account for the highest number of drug seizures and illegal immigrant apprehensions in the Nation. Chief Gilbert has called the Tucson Sector "ground zero for the Border Patrol." When he was asked whether being assigned to such a busy part of the border was a reward or a punishment, Chief Gilbert called his posting "an honor." It has been no less an honor for those of us who have had the opportunity to work with him.

Representing the Eighth Congressional District in Southeastern Arizona, I have had the privilege of witnessing first-hand the Border Patrol's important work. It has been a highlight of my time in Congress to meet the men and women of the Tucson Sector of the Border Patrol who serve in one of the most challenging and rugged regions in our country.

Under Chief Gilbert's exceptional leadership, great progress has been achieved in making our border more secure. In just the first three months of fiscal year 2010, agents in the Tucson Sector arrested 51,111 people and seized 270,418 pounds of marijuana. In fiscal year 2009, agents in the Tucson Sector seized an all-time national record of more than 1.2 million pounds of marijuana.

It is clear on many levels that Chief Gilbert and the men and women under his command are gaining control of the most porous area of our border with Mexico.

In addition to implementing effective new strategies to deal with the high volume of drug and human smuggling, Chief Gilbert and his team have been most responsive to my inquiries on behalf of constituents and they have reached out to build positive relationships with local residents, ranchers and business owners. The Chief established regular meetings of community stakeholders which have resulted in stronger partnerships between the Border Patrol and the citizens who live along the border. He has gone to great lengths to establish better understanding and communications with the community including his mule ride along the border with area ranchers to directly inspect the effects that smuggling has had on their land and operations.

In a 2009 interview with Linda Valdez, a columnist with the Arizona Republic, Chief Gilbert talked about the enthusiasm he has for his job. "If you can't get excited about defending the United States of America, you don't have a pulse," he said.

Each day, the agents supervised by Chief Gilbert confront armed smugglers, harsh desert terrain and weather extremes to keep us safe. Each day, they and Chief Gilbert illustrate what it means to be dedicated to duty and to country.

While enormous credit rightfully goes to Chief Gilbert for Border Patrol successes since he arrived on the job, we also recognize the great sacrifices that have been made by his family. His wife Lia and children Matthew and Sophia have been there to support the

Chief through his many long days and week-ends at work. The strength of his family has played a vital role in sustaining the Chief in his tireless service to the Nation. We thank them for all they have done for him and, through him, for all of us.

On behalf of the people of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District, I am proud to give the highest commendation to Chief Robert W. Gilbert for a job very well done. This man is a true patriot, who has served our region and the Nation with selflessness, integrity and honor.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF
LASHAWN Y. WARREN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and productive members of the Judiciary Committee staff for her service to the House, LaShawn Warren. For 2½ years, LaShawn served as Oversight Counsel for the Committee on the Judiciary.

LaShawn graduated magna cum laude from Savannah State College in Savannah, Georgia. She earned her law degree from Howard University, where she served as co-editor-in-chief of the Social Justice Law Review and rose to the leadership ranks of many of the law school's societies and associations. In addition to her law degree, she earned a certificate in non-profit management from Georgetown University's Center for Professional Development.

Prior to joining the staff of the Judiciary Committee, LaShawn served as Legislative Counsel for Civil Rights for the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU. As Legislative Counsel, she prepared congressional testimony for the U.S. Congress and the United Nations Human Rights Council, UNHRC, and lobbied Members of Congress, UNHRC members, and their respective staffs on voting rights, education equity, racial profiling, employment, housing, domestic violence policy, welfare reform, privacy, international human rights, and civil rights enforcement. She chaired advocacy and legislative coalitions, worked with national and local media, and served as the lead strategist for the civil rights community's successful effort to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act in 2006. Prior to her tenure at the ACLU, she served as a legislative analyst for the Seattle City Council and as an Assistant Attorney General for the Washington State Office of the Attorney General.

During her time with the Judiciary Committee, LaShawn led the Congress' investigation into the enforcement of Federal civil rights laws, hiring practices, and resource management issues in the Civil Rights Division, CRT, of the Department of Justice. By the end of the 110th Congress, her work had exposed massive politicization of the CRT's operations, including its hiring practices and case-prosecution decisions. Cleaning up that division—so central to the equal rights of all Americans—is a great legacy of LaShawn's work at the Committee. She additionally served as the Committee's lead counsel on voting issues and conducted investigative and legislative

work related to voting, employment, housing, predatory lending, bankruptcy, civil rights and criminal law enforcement, international law compliance, and civil rights in immigration policy. She authored large portions of the Committee staff's report "Reining in the Imperial Presidency: Lessons and Recommendations Relating to the Presidency of George W. Bush" and supervised the drafting and editing of the Committee's bipartisan amici brief in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Eric H. Holder* (2009).

On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, I would like to thank LaShawn for her service and for her unwavering commitment to protecting and advancing civil rights and liberties for all Americans. We are losing a dear colleague, mentor, and friend—her generosity, optimism, professionalism, and warmth shall be sorely missed. We wish her the best of luck and extend to her our deepest gratitude.

HONORING MR. ROD MORGAN ON
BECOMING THE FIRST AFRICAN
AMERICAN TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT
OF THE INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rod Morgan, a remarkable jurist from Indiana's 7th Congressional District, who recently became the first African American to serve as president of the Indiana State Bar Association. I applaud Mr. Morgan for this monumental achievement.

Currently a partner at Bingham McHale LLP in Indianapolis, Mr. Rod Morgan's legal career has been vast and varied. His career has touched upon nearly every aspect of jurisprudence from serving as an Army Judge Advocate General, to acting as a legal advisor to numerous military and political leaders, to teaching law and writing scholarly papers. Mr. Morgan is also an active member of the community, serving on numerous boards and associations, recently serving as president of the Indianapolis Black Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Partnership for Affordable Housing. His election as president of the Indiana State Bar Association marks yet another milestone in an exemplary career.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Rod Morgan and wishing him the best of luck in his latest endeavor.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
ELIZABETH JOYCE COSSER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Elizabeth Joyce Cosser, lovingly known as "Nan" treasured grandmother of my wife, Elizabeth, and dearest mother and matriarch.

Mrs. Cosser was born in 1923 and spent her childhood in the beautiful, rolling farmlands of Nottinghamshire and later South Downs,

England. Nan's unyielding love for the natural world, great joy of learning, deep commitment to family and sense of service to others was deeply rooted in her childhood. Moreover, Nan was raised to believe that girls were just as worthy as boys, and her fierce independence, courage and outspokenness shone throughout her life—and began during an era when women's rights and opportunities were still non-existent. A trailblazer in so many ways—Nan was a feminist and environmentalist before those words existed in the world's consciousness.

As a young woman, Nan ventured out on her own, eventually leaving home to become a nurse. During WWII, Nan's family homestead, Blackcap Farm, was destroyed by Canadian Troops who leveled the countryside with rounds and mortars during training maneuvers. At that same time, Nan worked as a nurse, tending to wounded soldiers amidst air raids and heaving bombing, in Brighton and the East End. After the war, Nan continued her chosen vocation of nursing, specializing in delivering babies. She became a community midwife, and delivered 1,265 babies, including Elizabeth, her namesake and granddaughter.

Nan coveted nature, and was on the forefront of the green movement and animal rights causes. In her spare time, Nan planted trees—thousands of trees. To this day, thick groves of chestnut, oak, buckeye and hazelnut trees grow along the country paths in Belhus Woods in Essex—all planted by Nan.

Nan taught by example, instilling in her children and grandchild a true love and respect for the earth and for each other. Beyond her love of gardening, Nan spent time with family on numerous outdoor adventures. She guided her grandchildren through the countryside, gathering berries which she later transformed into pies, jams, wine and even vodka. Her artistic talents and interests were extensive and varied; Nan excelled at painting, embroidery, knitting and pottery, and her adventurous spirit led her to journey to places around the world—researching the history of the culture wherever she went.

Nan combined her love of history and art, creating beautiful works depicting momentous eras and individuals in world history. Nan's keen interest in England's royal lineage led her to embark on an extensive project in which she researched every king and queen in England, dating back 1,000 years. Her research then inspired her to create an incredible series of pottery busts reflecting, in detail, the likeness and aura of royalty dating back one thousand years!

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Elizabeth Joyce "Nan" Cosser, whose kind and generous heart drew others to her. Nan's strength, integrity, and love for the world and its inhabitants, will forever live within the hearts of all us who knew and loved her well, and will forever reflect from the branches and leaves of the towering oak and chestnut trees along the English countryside—forever connecting us all in the cycle of life.

TOWN HALL BY MAIL SURVEY RESULTS FOR FLORIDA'S 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Our nation is faced with more major issues, and is more divided over how we should handle those issues, than at any time I have served in Congress.

These issues include matters of national security, financial security, economic security, and the future of our health care system. Last November, I asked residents of the 10th Congressional District I have the privilege to represent to share their thoughts with me on these and many other pressing issues. To date, more than 31,500 have responded to my survey which included 26 questions on a wide range of legislative matters. In addition, almost half of those who responded provided some very helpful additional comments about other matters of interest to them. In order to certify the accuracy of the results, I had an outside firm tabulate the surveys before returning them to me to review the comments.

Madam Speaker, following my remarks, I will include for the benefit of my colleagues the complete results of my Town Hall by Mail survey. As we return for the Second Session of this 111th Congress and begin debate on these many difficult issues, I think they will find these results of special interest.

CONGRESSMAN BILL YOUNG TOWN HALL BY
MAIL

- Which of the following do you feel to be the most pressing federal issue?
Federal Deficit, 17.33%
Job Creation, 16.02%
A Growing Federal Government, 15.14%
Health Care, 14.52%
National Security, 11.21%
Energy Independence, 8.83%
Immigration, 7.79%
Other, 3.61%
No Response, 2.86%
Housing, 2.69%
- Are you satisfied with your current health care coverage?
Yes, 73.09%
No, 20.40%
Not currently covered, 4.77%
No Response, 1.73%
- From what you have read about the pending health care legislation before Congress, do you believe this legislation would improve the quality of your health care coverage?
Yes, 15.85%
No, 70.71%
Unsure, 11.72%
No Response, 1.71%
- From what you know about the health care reform legislation pending before Congress, would you support or oppose this legislation?
Support, 22.42%
Oppose, 65.81%
Unsure, 10.22%
No Response, 1.55%
- Should health care reform include a government-run public option?
Yes, 28.49%
No, 60.44%
Unsure, 8.88%
No Response, 2.19%
- Do you believe that any health care reform legislation should specifically prohibit

federal funding for illegal immigrants to receive health care coverage?

Yes, 81.17%
No, 11.12%
Unsure, 5.99%
No Response, 1.71%

7. Should Congress raise taxes to pay for health care reform legislation?

Yes, 16.47%
No, 74.73%
Unsure, 7.04%
No Response, 1.76%

8. Should Congress pay for health care reform legislation by cutting Medicare by \$500 billion as proposed in the House bills?

Yes, 7.48%
No, 83.32%
Unsure, 7.44%
No Response, 1.76%

9. Should Congress require individuals to purchase health care insurance or face a tax penalty?

Yes, 17.02%
No, 73.54%
Unsure, 7.77%
No Response, 1.68%

10. Do you believe that the \$787 billion economic stimulus spending bill approved by Congress earlier this year has created jobs?

Yes, 15.32%
No, 73.67%
Unsure, 9.48%
No Response, 1.53%

11. Given the continued increase in unemployment, should Congress enact a second stimulus spending bill this year?

Yes, 13.31%
No, 72.66%
Unsure, 12.36%
No Response, 1.67%

12. Should the President approve the recommendation of General Stanley McChrystal to deploy some 40,000 more troops to Afghanistan?

Yes, 49.60%
No, 32.53%
Unsure, 16.04%
No Response, 1.83%

13. Would you be willing to pay higher fuel and energy prices to reduce the production of greenhouse gases?

Yes, 23.59%
No, 64.03%
Unsure, 10.52%
No Response, 1.86%

14. Should Congress be required to post major legislation online at least 72 hours before it's voted on in the House or Senate?

Yes, 85.08%
No, 5.90%
Unsure, 7.16%
No Response, 1.86%

15. Should Congress extend the \$8,000 federal first-time homebuyer's tax credit (the credit is set to expire on November 30, 2009)?

Yes, 48.66%
No, 41.21%
Unsure, 8.34%
No Response, 1.79%

16. Should Congress consider passage of a second Cash for Clunkers program?

Yes, 13.43%
No, 78.75%
Unsure, 6.27%
No Response, 1.56%

17. Should Congress provide additional bailout funds for U.S. automakers and financial institutions?

Yes, 2.88%
No, 90.71%
Unsure, 4.82%
No Response, 1.58%

18. The federal National Debt is currently over \$11.9 trillion and is projected to increase by more than \$9 trillion over the next ten years. To balance our account, Congress should:

Reduce government spending and eliminate programs, 83.30%

Increase taxes to pay for existing government programs, 13.43%

No Response, 3.27%

19. Should the federal government be required by law to have a balanced budget, as the Florida state government and most other states are required to do?

Yes, 79.64%
No, 9.18%
Unsure, 9.38%
No Response, 1.81%

20. Which do you believe would do more to create jobs and stimulate the American economy?

Increased government spending and new government programs, 13.21%

Reducing taxes on private business (the U.S. business tax rate is the 29th highest of the world's 30 largest economies), 81.37%

No Response, 5.43%

21. The Federal Reserve had refused to disclose to the Congress which companies have been given trillions of dollars in bailout money. Should the Fed be subject to a full and complete audit of its actions?

Yes, 94.54%
No, 1.71%
Unsure, 2.24%

22. Should suspected terrorists be transferred from the prisons at Guantanamo Bay to federal prisons in the United States?

Yes, 20.62%
No, 67.22%
Unsure, 8.21%
No Response, 3.95%

23. Should amnesty for those here illegally be included in immigration reform?

Yes, 12.23%
No, 74.12%
Unsure, 9.69%
No Response, 3.96%

24. The measure of the cost-of-living for Social Security recipients is predicted to increase from 2010 to 2011, yet recipients are not likely to receive a cost-of-living adjustment the next year. Should Social Security recipients receive an increase in their benefits for 2012?

Yes, 74.86%
No, 10.60%
Unsure, 10.70%
No Response, 3.84%

25. Should the U.S. continue pursuing a missile defense shield in Europe?

Yes, 51.27%
No, 27.68%
Unsure, 17.19%
No Response, 3.86%

26. Should economic sanctions continue against Iran?

Yes, 78.87%
No, 7.27%
Unsure, 10.07%
No Response, 3.78%

was a member of the San Diego Board of Education, as my Council Representative for five years when I was a member of the San Diego City Council, and in numerous roles in many of my campaigns, including Finance Director for two of my Congressional Campaigns. When one of my early campaigns showed practically a zero in donations for an entire summer month of fundraising, I called on her, and the contributors returned. Throughout the years, she has been my go-to person when I need something done and done right.

Upon reflection, I believe that her most important contribution has been to provide a consistent and friendly voice to the people we are serving, knowing many by name. She gives them what they are asking for—either the answers they need or information about who can help if we are not the right office to call. A visitor or caller never goes away without assistance.

Sharon's work over the years has included legislation that addresses people's needs: education, gay and lesbian, health, labor, Native American, senior citizen and Social Security, religion, art, welfare, women, and veterans issues. She was my sole staff person for the House of Representatives Veterans' Affairs Committee (VA) for fourteen years. She has met with constituents and lobbyists, answered mail, prepared my statements for the VA and the House and talking points for speaking engagements, prepared bills for introduction in the House, and written press releases. In fact, she has done almost everything in my office, from the duties of staff assistant to executive assistant to administrative assistant, as needed—just not systems administration.

She has taken a keen interest in how micro-credit and microenterprise can help many people in our country, travelling to Bangladesh to learn about the Grameen Bank in Dhaka, founded by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus.

She has helped me prepare for many of the awards and recognitions I have received, for example, the 2009 Gusi Peace Prize I was recently awarded in the Philippines and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award I received from the National Education Association in 2003. Her supporting role in my work on the issues important to my Filipino constituents was critical to my selection as a recipient of the Legion of Honor, the highest civilian award given by the Philippines, presented by then-President Fidel Ramos.

Sharon has also prepared the nominations I have made throughout the years for winning entries, for example in the Victory Against Hunger Award sponsored by the Congressional Hunger Center, the Private Sector Small Business Award from the Asian American Business Roundtable, the Congressional Angels in Adoption Awards from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, the Ethics Award from the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation, and my nominations for the White House Conference on Aging. For each of the seventeen years we have been in Washington, she has been the DC staff person in charge of trip arrangements to Washington for the winning students in the annual Congressional Arts Competition. She has greeted our Congressional Pages and has handled the ticket requests for Presidential inaugurations.

She has joined with me in many of our accomplishments. She was with me when we

IN TRIBUTE TO SHARON SCHULTZE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and contributions of my Senior Legislative Assistant, Sharon Schultz.

On Monday, January 11, 2010, Sharon retired after seventeen years of service in my Washington Congressional office. In and of themselves, these years are enough to qualify her for special recognition, but she also served as my Assistant for four years when I

talked with VA Secretary Jesse Brown about the need for a Veterans' Home in Chula Vista, California. She was at the table when we spoke to VA Secretary Principi about providing medical equipment and supplies to the Veterans Hospital in Manila. She helped to bring a Community Based Outpatient Clinic to Imperial County, California and the Miramar National Cemetery to San Diego, California, with a groundbreaking scheduled for January 30, 2010.

Her important legislative achievements include passage of several bills for veterans, including a bill to provide a posthumous Purple Heart to the families of every prisoner of war who died while in a prison camp, a bill to provide compensation to World War II Merchant Mariners who were excluded from the original GI Bill benefits, and legislation to restore equity and promised benefits to the Filipino World War II veterans who were deprived of both by an act of Congress in 1946.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Sharon for 26 years of working together, learning together, and achieving together. As a former history professor, I believe that we have changed a small piece of history.

CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA'S ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY BILL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against Bill No. 18, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009, which will soon be considered for passage by the government of Uganda. This proposed legislation criminalizes and punishes homosexuality, thereby endangering the lives of all Ugandans and threatening their civil and human rights. This is outrageously discriminatory and deeply troubling.

The Anti-Homosexuality Bill was introduced as a Private Member's Bill by Ugandan Member of Parliament David Bahati of the National Resistance Movement Party on April 29, 2009. Following adoption, it was published in the Uganda Gazette on September 25, 2009, according to the procedural rules of the Ugandan Parliament. A vast majority of governments throughout the world, including the United States, continue to deny full civil rights and protections to their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, LGBT, citizens. However, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill takes this to a deadly extreme.

This legislation condemns HIV-positive citizens, including minors, who engage in consensual homosexual acts to death and sentences citizens who engage in consensual homosexual acts to life imprisonment. The Anti-Homosexuality Bill also seeks to persecute LGBT citizens living abroad by extraditing them for acts committed outside Uganda, including those who are also dual citizens of Uganda and the United States. Furthermore, this legislation requires known homosexuals to be reported to the authorities within 24 hours; failure to do so would result in a jail term of up to 3 years. This applies to Ugandan nationals and dual citizens living abroad, as well as any person who witnesses such an act within

Uganda, regardless of whether they have legal ties to the Ugandan nation. Finally, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill requires that its provisions override any commitment to international agreements or protocols that recognize the rights of LGBT persons to the extent of the inconsistency between the two. As a responsible member of the international community, the United States cannot condone such a bill becoming law.

The Anti-Homosexuality Bill legislates against the fundamental democratic right of freedom from fear of physical harm by one's own government. This legislation would undermine the government of Uganda's commitment to democracy at a most basic level, significantly damage its relations with the international community, and risk inciting greater hate-motivated violence within Uganda itself. Its mere existence almost certainly will lead to violence against individuals who either are LGBT or are rumored to be LGBT, their families, and community leaders in their places of worship, homes, schools, and businesses.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about the consequences that this bill would have on public health in Uganda as it attempts to combat HIV/AIDS. The stigmatization of homosexual identity and behavior continues to stymie efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in the United States and abroad. The bill's criminalization of homosexuality will undoubtedly discourage individuals from having the open and honest discussions about their sexual health and behavior that are crucial to lessening the spread and burden of this infection.

I commend President Obama and State Secretary Clinton for denouncing this bigoted legislation and am pleased to acknowledge that their sentiments have been publicly shared by the European Union, Canada, and other nations and international human rights groups. In addition, I also applaud those Ugandans, including Senior Advisor to President Museveni, John Nagenda, who have spoken out in opposition to this bill and urge them to fight it when Uganda's parliament enters discussions on the matter in February or March of this year.

I am further encouraged by Secretary Clinton's commitment to protect "the rights of the LGBT community worldwide" and will continue working to ensure that sexual orientation and gender identity not constitute the basis for criminal penalties, harassment, or discrimination. It is my fervent hope that Congress will show a similar commitment to its own LGBT citizens as it is called upon to repeal discriminatory legislation such as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Defense of Marriage Act.

Madam Speaker, I unequivocally condemn the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in the strongest possible terms and urge the government of Uganda to withdraw this bill and support the inalienable human rights of all people.

CONGRATULATING RODNEY KAY

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rodney Kay, named my State's 2009–10 "Assistant Principal of the Year" by the Georgia Association of Sec-

ondary School Principals. Rodney, head of Curriculum and Instruction at Heard County High School in Franklin, will represent the Peach State well when he competes for the national title in March.

Rodney won this award after serving as an administrator for only two years. This recognition so early in his career demonstrates the passion and commitment he brings to educating young people. His leadership, combined with the talents of all the fine educators at Heard County High, quickly brought demonstrable results. The school has achieved new records in test scores, and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement named Heard County as one of only nine schools to attain "platinum" status in the 2008–09 school year.

Rodney's win was not only well-deserved, but it also had the additional benefit of bringing positive attention to Heard County students' accomplishments, said Principal Rusty Sowell. "It is a tremendous honor to be selected, and it speaks for itself with the things he has done and helped us achieve," Sowell continued.

This success might derive from Rodney's team player approach with teachers. Rodney knows first-hand the challenges as well as the joys that come with serving directly in the classroom. Before his promotion to assistant principal at Heard County, he worked as a Spanish teacher for 13 years in his hometown of Carrollton.

As a Member of Congress, I greatly appreciate efforts to honor the outstanding public servants who dedicate their lives to enlightening the next generation of Americans. Our teachers rank among our greatest resources. They put their own hearts on the line for students facing educational hardships or troubled home lives. They also know the triumph of seeing students learn, overcome obstacles, achieve academic excellence and go on to successful college and professional careers.

Rodney Kay obviously has approached this calling with fervor and passion—and with an eye on a higher purpose. "I believe I am in the school to serve teachers and students, and I have been placed on this Earth to serve God and others," Rodney said.

We appreciate that service from Rodney and his fellow educators. On behalf of the people of Georgia's 3rd District, I congratulate him on this honor and wish him the best of luck as he advances to the next level.

RECOGNIZING STEELE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHARLOTTE, NC

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize Steele Creek Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Steele Creek Presbyterian was founded in 1760, and this year, they celebrate their 250th anniversary as a church community.

As one of the oldest churches in our area, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church is a cornerstone in the Charlotte community. Its membership is dedicated to the service of others, whether by providing food to area shelters, manpower to local Habitat for Humanity

projects, or any number of other volunteer efforts in our community. The congregation at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church continually sets an example of living a life of faith by raising our future generations in an atmosphere that fosters love, service and a sense of community.

Madam Speaker, today it is my honor to recognize Steele Creek Presbyterian Church. They have demonstrated a level of commitment to community that is well appreciated, and it serves as an example for us all. It is a privilege to represent the Steele Creek congregation, and I wish them many more years of worship and service.

A TRIBUTE TO HARDY WILLIAMS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and work of my friend Hardy Williams, the late State Senator from Philadelphia. Senator Williams was a pioneer in championing African American causes in Philadelphia and dedicated his life to serving his community.

Senator Williams was born April 14, 1931 and raised in West Philadelphia. A product of the School District of Philadelphia, Sen. Williams graduated from Pennsylvania State University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and began his groundbreaking work shortly thereafter. He organized the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus in 1972, and served five successful terms as a State Representative.

In 1982 he was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate. During his tenure in the Senate, Sen. Williams served as minority chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee and chairman of a task force on violence as a public health issue. In 1994, he founded and served as executive director of Black Family Services. Sen. Williams also founded the Organized Anti-Crime Community Network. He worked with Blacks Networking for Progress, the Delaware Valley Ecumenical Council, and the African-American Delaware Valley Port Corporation. Sen. Hardy was instrumental in establishing the Crisis Intervention Network, a program dedicated to preventing violence among youths.

Senator Hardy Williams' long and impressive career showcases his commitment, service, and dedication to bettering his community. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Sen. Williams, and honor him for the great work he has done for the people of Philadelphia.

IN HONOR OF NAVY SEAL SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR FIRST CLASS JEREMY WISE

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero. On December 30,

2009, our state and nation lost a great patriot when former Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator First Class Jeremy Wise, aged 35, died in an attack on a CIA outpost near Khost, Afghanistan. He died when a terrorist detonated a bomb at the facility killing seven Americans in the attack.

Petty Officer Wise was raised in Arkansas by his loving parents, Dr. Jean and Mary Wise, and graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. Although I never had the honor to meet Petty Officer Wise, I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of all Arkansans to his family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances for this devastating loss.

Petty Officer Wise joined the U.S. Navy in 2001 where he rose to the rank of Special Warfare Operator First Class as a Navy SEAL, joining an elite group of service men and women. Petty Officer Wise served with the U.S. Navy until September 2009. After his Naval service, he headed to the front lines in Afghanistan as a security contractor doing the important work over there that needs to be done to secure our nation here at home. Throughout his extended period of service to our nation, Petty Officer Wise was an exemplary serviceman who embodied the true patriot.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Dana; son, Ethan; parents, Jean and Mary; and the rest of his family during this extraordinarily difficult time.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator First Class Jeremy Wise and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our armed forces, and those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great country.

BULGARIA SETS PACE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Bulgaria, I would like to commend Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and the country of Bulgaria for their fiscal soundness.

According to a January 12, 2010 article in The Wall Street Journal, countries around the world, including the United States, could learn from the Bulgarians as proponents of a free market democracy. Bulgaria entered the European Union (EU) in 2007 and succeeded in producing the smallest budget deficit among the 27 member nations last year. (They are not yet part of the euro zone, which currently consists of 16 EU nations.) As a dynamic member of NATO, Bulgaria is a valued partner of America.

Bulgaria is on track to be the only EU nation to balance its 2010 budget. The country was able to manage its budget by instituting key fiscal strategies. The most basic example was the capital city's ability to freeze wages and pensions for those in the government, re-evaluate costly state investment projects, and slash government spending by 15 percent. Such efforts resulted in a "full-year deficit of less than 500 million lev (\$370 million), or 0.8

percent of gross domestic product. The closest country to do so was Germany with 3.4 percent.

Given the international attention to Bulgaria's fiscal strategy, European leaders will now understand Bulgaria has arrived on the world stage. Continuing economic progress could help Bulgaria leapfrog other euro desiring countries, like Romania and Hungary who had to be given bailouts from the International Monetary Fund, IMF, due to the downturn, where as Bulgaria has not and does not intend to ask the IMF for assistance. Even Poland, who has been rethinking their entering the euro currency nations club, may be outpaced by Bulgaria as a currency member nation.

Bulgaria's decision to tackle the difficult issue of spending and budget deficits, which plagued their country in the past, is now a model for other Baltic states where deficits are rising. Further evidence of their success is the credit-rating agency Standard & Poor's has upgraded Bulgaria's status as stable.

I commend Prime Minister Borisov and Finance Minister Simeon Djankov for their visionary work elevating Bulgaria as a major player in the EU and world. Entry into the euro should be given serious consideration by the EU as a result of these major achievements.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CHARLES ALLEN

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, Reverend Charles L. Allen. Sr., Pastor of the Greater Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, is retiring after thirty-two years of dedicated service. I am pleased to join his parishioners in thanking Reverend Allen for his devoted service to his church and community.

Reverend Allen has served in many capacities throughout his years in the ministry. Among the many positions Reverend Allen has held are President of the Puritan District Congress of Texas and advisor to the City Wide Ushers Association. Reverend Allen also taught Moody Bible College courses to his parishioners and other interested members of the community. Reverend Allen served in the United States Army from 1952 until 1954.

Under Reverend Allen's leadership, Greater Mount Nebo experienced a tremendous increase in membership. Reverend Allen helped ensure Greater Mount Nebo had sufficient resources to construct a new edifice and retire the church's mortgage. Reverend Allen also helped his congregation, and the entire community, by organizing a variety of education courses.

Reverend Allen's parishioners benefited not just from his teachings, but from his personal example. Reverend Allen treats everyone who crosses his path with integrity and compassion. The vitality and warmth exhibited by this spiritual and dedicated leader has earned him the respect and admiration of those individuals who have been privileged to know and work with him.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join the congregation of Greater Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church in

thanking Reverend Charles L. Allen, Sr., for all he has done to better the lives of his parishioners.

A RESOLUTION “CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DURING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STEVIE WONDER SONG TRIBUTE TO DR. KING, ‘HAPPY BIRTHDAY,’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 30th anniversary of the Stevie Wonder song tribute to Dr. King, “Happy Birthday.” Joining me in this effort is the gentleman from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, and I would like to acknowledge him at this time.

For over 40 years, we have commemorated the life and work of our nation’s greatest civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Since 1986, we have recognized Dr. King with a Federal holiday in his honor—a holiday that I worked hard to achieve. As we approach this year’s King Holiday, which coincides with the 30th anniversary of Stevie Wonder’s song tribute to Dr. King, “Happy Birthday,” I am honored to introduce this resolution for a few reasons.

First, we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for pursuing a dream of equality that made our nation a more free and just society. In his short life, Dr. King laid the foundation for a society that could live up to the ideal that “all men are created equal.” It is on the shoulders of Dr. King and others at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement, that we are here today, able to acknowledge that much of Dr. King’s dream has been realized.

Our 44th President, President Barack Obama, is a testament to Dr. King’s pursuit and struggle for equality. At his Inauguration, President Obama acknowledged that he was a product of Dr. King’s legacy, when he expressed that the historic day be explained by “why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent Mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.”

Second, we are able to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the third Monday in January every year because of the commitment to continue Dr. King’s legacy by people like Stevie Wonder. Stevie Wonder’s 1980 song tribute to Dr. King, “Happy Birthday,” became a rallying cry for those supporting the campaign to honor Dr. King with a Federal holiday. It was that song that led to the collection of 6 million signatures in support of a Federal holiday that Stevie Wonder and Coretta Scott King presented to Congressional Leadership in 1982.

After legislation providing for a Federal holiday in honor of Dr. King had been enacted in 1983, and was first observed in 1986, it was Stevie Wonder that headlined a concert during

that first official commemoration of Dr. King. Significantly, Stevie Wonder’s work to advance the legacy of Dr. King did not end here. Mr. Wonder went on to address such racial and social ills as apartheid in South Africa, famine in Africa, and the AIDS epidemic.

Finally, I introduce this resolution commemorating the life and work of Dr. King during this 30th anniversary of “Happy Birthday” because, while the legacy of Dr. King lives on in Stevie Wonder and so many of us, we must realize that we still have work to do to live up to the ideal that “all men are created equal.” Advancing Dr. King’s mission of equality means eliminating the disparities that exist in so many aspects of our society, like healthcare, housing, employment, and education. Advancing Dr. King’s mission of peace means encouraging our nation to be a peaceful democracy.

Therefore, it is with this resolution that I ask the people of the United States to renew pledges to advance those principles and actions that are consistent with Dr. King’s dream, those principles of equality, freedom, peace, courage, and compassion. Let us allow Dr. King to live on in each of us, not just on the third Monday in January, but every day.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3326, THE
FY10 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS
ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3326, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for FY 2010.

Critical provisions have been added to this bill in order to help those facing incredible hardships during this difficult economic time.

The extension of expanded unemployment benefits until the end of February is a vital stopgap measure for those in dire need, and I would like to stress that this is only a piece of our urgent responsibility to restore the economic livelihood, and promise of opportunity to so many individuals and communities across the country.

I am also pleased to see that H.R. 3326 includes language prohibiting the establishment of permanent military bases in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, I cannot support the \$125 billion included in this bill for ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, nor can I support a continuation of runaway defense spending especially at a time when individuals and families across this nation are facing enormous challenges in simply trying to make ends meet.

Madam Speaker, I have been clear in my respectful disagreement with the President’s decision to escalate the United States military presence in Afghanistan, as well as my belief that the situation in Afghanistan will not be solved with a military solution.

This bill does not include additional funding for the proposed troop deployments, and I am hopeful Congress will hold an honest debate and up-or-down vote on the issue of a military escalation prior to obligating federal resources.

The direct costs of two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have reached nearly \$1 trillion, and

the indirect costs to our national security, our economy, and to our brave men and women in uniform are immeasurable.

We further cannot afford to squander our resources on costly cold-war era weapons that in many cases are outdated and truthfully inappropriate for reducing the real threats facing our nation.

The fact is, as we work to reform our nation’s healthcare and education systems, invest in housing and infrastructure, and put American’s back to work, sending more than 50 percent of the federal discretionary budget to the Pentagon represents a clear and unacceptable tradeoff.

For those reasons I cannot support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFELONG
IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND
EXERCISE ACT (LIFE)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, as we come close to the enactment of historic health care legislation, I introduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act (LIFE), authorizing a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Growing problems of overweight and obesity are now found in Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no other single disease or condition does. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is reducing overweight and obesity. The LIFE bill would provide \$25 million in funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a coordinated effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar. Despite rising consciousness of this epidemic, from NBC’s “The Biggest Loser” to a steady stream of diet books, startling rates of obesity among adults and children continue in the United States. In 2007, estimates from the CDC National Center for Health Statistics showed that the percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and among adolescents, the rates have tripled since 1980. Today, 13 million overweight children have an 80 percent chance of being overweight adults, with the health conditions that follow, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. The CDC reports that Type 2 diabetes, considered an adult disease, is now widespread in children. The health care system is already paying the price, and the consequences for kids will follow them throughout their lives. If we are serious about health care, we must start where the most serious health conditions begin: in the epidemic of overweight and obesity.

The LIFE bill directs the CDC to pursue obesity and sedentary lifestyles in three ways: train health professionals to recognize the signs of obesity early and educate people concerning healthy lifestyles, such as proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct education campaigns to teach the public about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies to be

used in everyday life at worksites and in community settings. This important legislation is the minimum necessary to address this major health care crisis. Already, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight or obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S., which is 1.7 million each year, and 60 percent of U.S. medical care expenses annually. According to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, the cost of obesity in the United States was more than \$117 billion in 2000. Currently, an estimated 300,000 deaths per year are related to obesity.

A focused national health initiative is necessary because unhealthy lifestyles have become a normal part of everyday life. Participation in high school physical education classes has dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2005. National data show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because 60 percent of young people consume too much fat, a factor doubling the percentage of overweight youth.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation to mobilize the country now, before entirely preventable health conditions, that often begin in children, overwhelm the nation's health care system.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR JACK DAVIDSON

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kansas University Professor John P. [Jack] Davidson, who died on January 10th.

Jack Davidson, along with his wife Mary, was a consistent voice for enlightened, progressive leadership in Lawrence and Douglas County, Kansas. I was proud to have him as a constituent and very much appreciated his thoughtful advice on many of the pending issues of the day. Jack was a candidate for the Kansas Board of Education in 1998, the same year I first was a candidate for the U.S. Congress, and he later served a term as an elected member of the Lawrence U.S.D. No. 497 School Board. Jack was a longtime, dedicated Democratic Party activist whose dedication, hard work and creativity will be missed by all who knew him and worked with him through the past several decades. I am pleased to include with this tribute an obituary for Jack that appeared in the Lawrence Journal World.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity to pay tribute to a Kansan who worked tirelessly to make his community, his nation and the world a better place.

[From the Lawrence Journal World, Jan. 12, 2010]

Jack Davidson (John P. Davidson) died at home in Lawrence on January 10. A memorial service is planned at the Ecumenical Christian Center on Feb. 15.

He was born on July 22, 1924, in Los Angeles, the son of John Pirnie Davidson and Istalia Rhine.

After graduating from Glendale High School, Jack followed his interests in rock-

etry and science to the University of California, Berkeley.

From 1943 to 1946, he served in the Army Signal Corps in the European Theater of Operations until he was honorably discharged as a first sergeant.

Returning to Berkeley, he graduated from the University of California in 1948, with highest honors in physics.

As a graduate student at Washington University in St. Louis, he worked with Mary Rieser and others to organize the Student Committee for the Admission of Negroes. Although most students supported that effort, Arthur Holly Compton, the Chancellor, declined to challenge community traditions at that time. Jack and Mary were married in September 1949.

Jack received his doctorate in 1952, working under Eugene Feenberg. He did postgraduate work at Columbia University and eventually published more than 40 research papers, a monograph, and encyclopedia entries.

He taught at the Brazilian Center for Physical Research in Rio, and at the Joint Establishment for Nuclear Energy Research in Lillestrom, Norway. His research for the Norwegian merchant marine on the possibility of outfitting the fleet with nuclear reactors included the possibility that the reactor core might breach containment and melt down through the hull. This was the first use of the term "meltdown" in nuclear reactor literature.

He taught and did research at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute through 1966, and after that at the University of Kansas. He was chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy from 1977 to 1989. He also taught at Tsing Hua University in Taiwan in the summer of 1969.

Jack Davidson led summer camps in astronomy for high school students for many years. He is a member of the American Astronomical Society, the American Physical Society, and the Kansas Academy of Sciences.

After his retirement in 1996, he served on the USD 497 School Board from 1999 to 2003. He was also active in local Democratic Party politics and in flying clubs.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Duncan Davidson. He is survived by his wife, Mary Davidson, of the home, and by four sons, John Pirnie Davidson III and his wife, Shirley Schaeffer, Scarsdale, New York; Robert Kenneth Davidson and his wife, Monica Davidson, Ottawa, KS; Tom Davidson and his wife, Diane Davidson, Lexington, MA; and Jim Davidson, Lawrence, KS; and by six grandchildren, Jessica, Julia, Anna, Nathan, Owen, and Alice.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the Ecumenical Christian Center, 1204 Oread.

RESOLUTION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I introduce a resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month.

Whereas one in every five Americans struggles with some sort of disability, be it intellectual, physical or otherwise, and the need for inclusion of individuals with disabilities is a family, community and national priority;

Whereas a similar ratio exists in the Jewish community, with over 1 million Jewish individuals living with a form of disability;

Whereas individuals with disabilities face significant disadvantages in educational and employment opportunities;

Whereas 70 percent of individuals with disabilities are unemployed or significantly underemployed;

Whereas special education and related programming do not address underlying needs for appropriate training to lead to greater independence and employment;

Whereas Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities, and its parent organization, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, is dedicated to addressing the needs of all individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community;

Whereas Yachad provides programming for individuals with disabilities and their families to foster inclusion in communal happenings and assists in placing individuals with disabilities in employment;

Whereas Yachad and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America are cosponsoring North American Inclusion Month in February to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of individuals with disabilities, and the need for increased employment opportunities, better special education and increased inclusion of these individuals on the family, communal and national levels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month.

NONNIE BURNS—A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on March 25th, when we will be in session I assume, an excellent organization known as Discovering Justice will present the Champion of Justice Award to a great advocate of fairness, Nonnie Burns. Nonnie Burns, I should say at the outset, is an old friend of many years, going back to the days when she was a strong supporter of mine when I first ran for the State Legislature in the Beacon Hill section of Boston in 1972. Since then, she has gone on to an extraordinarily distinguished career, first as an extremely respected judge in the Massachusetts trial courts, and then as the state's Commissioner of Insurance, a position from which she has since retired.

Throughout her career as an attorney, judge and commissioner, Nonnie Burns has exemplified the legal profession at its best—namely in a commitment to seeing that justice is done for all. It is entirely appropriate that Discovering Justice, housed I should note in the Federal Courthouse in Boston named for our beloved late colleague Joe Moakley, is honoring her. Discovering Justice educates young people about the justice system and what they can do to make sure that it functions as it should. They run a particularly large program called Children Discovering Justice, which Nonnie Burns inspired and which she has championed. The program for children in grades 1–5 is taught in 25% of the public schools in Boston.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to call Nonnie Burns a friend and grateful for the advice I have been able to get from her over the years. In particular, during her tenure as Insurance Commissioner, she was of significant value to those of us on the Financial Services Committee in her thoughtful and prompt responses to questions we had affecting insurance policy. I congratulate Discovering Justice for recognizing her value and presenting her with this award, which, as I noted, I will not be able to note in person because I will be here on the floor when the event goes forward.

HONORING RALPH L. FLETCHER

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ralph L. Fletcher, the mayor of Lakeland, a city in my 12th Congressional District of Florida. Ralph has worked tirelessly to represent the best interests of the citizens of Lakeland. Moreover, as a small business owner, he has successfully run his Fletcher Printing Company and helped form the successful real estate company, Arch Inc.

"Buddy" Fletcher enjoyed building one-on-one relationships with the citizens of Lakeland. As his deputy city manager, Tony Delgado told the Lakeland Ledger, Monday mornings became Buddy Time—where the mayor would share with him all of the complaints and suggestions he had gathered from residents of Lakeland over the weekend. No task was too small or big for Mr. Fletcher, and he was dedicated to making sure that the issue was addressed properly.

Mr. Fletcher truly is Lakeland's own. He first attended Lakeland High School and then later pursued his education even further at Florida Southern College. Mr. Fletcher first served as one of Lakeland's City Commissioners from 1989 to 1992. He was then elected as mayor of Lakeland in 1993 as has served in that office ever since.

When he first decided to run for office, his wife suggested that running a campaign only on economic development would not be sufficient. However, during his tenure as mayor he helped bring in Watkins Motor Lines and the headquarters of the grocery chain Publix downtown to add jobs in the city. Always with an eye for the long term benefits to Lakeland, Fletcher is remembered by his admirers for improved economic development, city beautification and the restoration of parks.

Fletcher has been well renowned for his accessibility to residents. He instructed his staff to give out his cell phone number to any resident who wanted to reach him personally. People he has golfed with had several anecdotes about taking weekend calls out on the course. A reporter once asked him how many hours a week he dedicated to job. Fletcher was baffled by this question because he considered himself always on duty from when he woke up at 4:30 a.m. until he went to sleep.

In 1998, he was recognized for his volunteer service earning the Sun 'n Fun Chairman of the Board Award. The Sun 'n Fun organization is a volunteer group focused on aviation education and running the Florida Air Museum.

In 2001, he earned the Jere Annis Leadership Award. These awards are granted to

those who have graduated from the Lakeland Leadership Program—which has provided consistent leadership in enhancing quality of life and cohesion in the Lakeland community.

Mr. Fletcher truly is a great leader in the community and his extensive volunteer efforts reflect that. In February of 2004 he earned the Distinguished Citizen of the Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America for outstanding leadership. In May of 2009, he earned the University of South Florida Polytechnic Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to USF Polytechnic and service to the community.

Mr. Fletcher looks forward to spending his retirement with his devoted wife of 57 years, Weetsie.

Lakeland City Commissioner Dean Boring had this to say of Fletcher, "He's been Lakeland's No. 1 cheerleader, and he'll never stop doing that. If you cut Buddy Fletcher, Lakeland would pour out. He lives, sleeps, eats and drinks Lakeland."

IN RECOGNITION OF FAMILIES FLU VACCINATION DAY AND FAMILIES FIGHTING FLU

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Families Flu Vaccination Day and Families Fighting Flu. Influenza is a serious disease that kills nearly 100 children younger than five years of age every year in the United States. In fact, more children die from the flu than from chicken pox, whooping cough, and measles combined. The flu is a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory tract. With the recent development of H1N1, a deadlier strain of the flu, it is more important now than ever to vaccinate our children and educate the American public. Indeed, more than 240 children in the United States have died from the H1N1 virus.

I commend the efforts of Families Fighting Flu, a non-profit, volunteer-based organization of families who have experienced firsthand the death of a child or have had a child experience severe medical complications from seasonal or H1N1 influenza. Families Fighting Flu and its medical advisors are dedicated to educating people about the severity of influenza and the importance of vaccinating children against the flu every year. The members of Families Fighting Flu have suffered terrible personal losses as result of the virus. We are grateful that they are sharing their personal tragedies so that others will not have to suffer such loss. Influenza is unpredictable, but we know that the more people who are vaccinated, the less likely the disease will spread.

Every year in the United States more than 20,000 children under the age of five are hospitalized due to influenza. Additionally, children are two-to-three times more likely than adults to get sick with the flu because of their less developed immune systems. Because the flu vaccine is typically 60 to 90 percent effective when administered to children, getting an annual flu vaccination is an easy way to help stop the spread of the virus.

This week is National Influenza Vaccination Week, a national observance that was estab-

lished to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as foster greater use of the flu vaccine after the holiday season into January and beyond. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all children 6 months through 18 years of age get vaccinated against the flu every year. In addition, the CDC recommends that all contacts and caregivers of children from birth to age five should be vaccinated.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Families Fighting Flu. This non-profit organization is determined to help prevent the tragedy of losing another child by encouraging annual flu vaccinations for all children. I look forward to working with my colleagues to support Families Flu Vaccination Day and make influenza immunization for children a national health priority.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber yesterday evening and today. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "present" on rollcall vote 1, "nay" on rollcall vote 2 and "yea" on rollcall votes 3, 4 and 5.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Military Construction—Army National Guard

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nevada National Guard

Address of Requesting Entity: 2460 Fairview Dr., Carson City, NV 89701

Description of Request: \$2,000,000. Funding will be used for wind, solar, and geothermal energy projects at facilities and training sites operated by the Nevada National Guard.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Military Construction—Air National Guard

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nevada National Guard

Address of Requesting Entity: 2460 Fairview Dr., Carson City, NV 89701

Description of Request: \$10,800,000. Funding will be used for the design and construction of a new fire station at the Nevada Air National Guard base located at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport in Reno, Nevada. The

new fire station is intended to replace the half-century old original structure. Construction of the new fire station will alleviate the concerns regarding the current fire station, which has become inadequate in size and insufficient in space in order to properly support the fire protection and crash/rescue requirements for the 152nd Airlift Wing.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Transportation—Federal Highway Administration—Surface Transportation Priorities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nevada Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 1263 South Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712

Description of Request: \$779,200. The project will add three miles of controlled access freeway from Fairview Dr. to the southern connections at the existing US 50 West—Tahoe Juncture/Carson Street intersection. The Freeway will be designed for two lanes in each direction with provisions for future widening in the median connection to the Reno/Sparks community with Carson City and the Lake Tahoe Basin.

HONORING THE BLUE RIDGE COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 86 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UPSTATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, Saturday, January 9, 2010, marked a special day for the Blue Ridge Council Boy Scouts and the entire Boy Scouts of America organization. The Blue Ridge Council celebrated its 86th year of serving the youth of Upstate South Carolina and the national Boy Scouts of America organization celebrated its centennial. The Boy Scouts of America organization was founded on principals set forth to shape and mold boys into young men. Learning to become mentally awake, physically strong and morally straight are key to the development of loyal patriots and the Boy Scouts of America have long since been instrumental in the lives of many young men.

TRIBUTE TO SALLY WINSHIP, R.D.H., M.S., ED.D.

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, before my election to the House of Representatives, I served for several years as an elected member of the board of trustees for the Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. This excellent community college is the crown jewel of my home community, and I was very proud to be associated with this outstanding institution of higher education.

During my board service, I got to know Dr. Sally Winship who served as dean of the Col-

lege's Continuing Education and Community Services. This month, Dr. Winship is retiring after working as a community college educator and administrator for 37 years. She retires as vice president of the College's Workforce, Community and Economic Development Department, and has also served as president of the JCCC Center for Business and Technology.

Sally was originally trained as a dental hygienist and became coordinator of the JCCC program before becoming assistant dean of the Science, Health Care and Math Division in 1987. She received her B.S. degree from Armstrong State College, and then obtained her M.S. degree from Columbia University, and her doctorate in education from the University of Kansas.

During Sally's time at the college, the outstanding Regnier Center for Technology and Business was designed, built, and opened. Her responsibilities included managing over 60 full-time staff and 550 part-time faculty, as well as managing programs serving over 155,000 participants and 480 area businesses.

Sally worked hard to make the Johnson County Community College this area's workforce development resource for the greater Kansas City business community. During her time at the college, it grew in student population, course offerings, campus buildings, prestige and reputation.

Madam Speaker, I join Sally's many friends and colleagues in wishing her health, happiness, and prosperity for the next chapter of her life, and in thanking her for her many, important contributions to our community.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES TERRELL JORDAN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of James Terrell Jordan of Monticello, Arkansas, who passed away on December 27, 2009, at the age of 84. Having fought for freedom in World War II, James then committed his life to the people of Arkansas through public office for over five decades.

James was born in Drew County, Arkansas, to his late parents Alvin and Linnie Jordan, and attended schools in Monticello and California. He was a member of the 101st Airborne Division in World War II, serving as a paratrooper and receiving a Purple Heart Medal.

Following active duty on the frontlines, James returned to serve his community beginning as Drew County treasurer in 1956. He then served as county judge for eight years before becoming mayor of Monticello for 17 years. Having also given his time and energy to numerous agencies, councils and committees, James was awarded the "Man of the Year" award in 1985 from the Drew County Chamber of Commerce.

James was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1986 and served for 12 years. Representing District 92, he served on the Committee on City, County and Local Affairs and the Committee on Public Transportation. His lifetime love of education led to his eventual appointment to the University of Ar-

kansas Board of Visitors by Governor Mike Huckabee.

I had the distinct privilege of serving with James during my time in the Arkansas state legislature and he was someone I respected and trusted for sincere advice and counsel. As an admired and respected public officer, James worked tirelessly to better the lives of those around him.

James was well known for far more than being a member of the Greatest Generation who committed himself to the state he loved so much; he was also known to many as a good friend and role model.

My thoughts and prayers and those of every Arkansan are with his wife, Bonnie; two sons, Terrell and Jerry; daughter, Cindy; his nine grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and the rest of his family and friends during this difficult time. James will be profoundly missed and the people of Arkansas are deeply grateful to his lifetime of exemplary effort and legacy of community service and leadership.

TRIBUTE TO MARIE LOUISE ANDERSON GREENWOOD

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and exceptional accomplishments of Mrs. Marie Louise Anderson Greenwood. On January 15, 2010, Mrs. Greenwood will be honored by the Denver business community at the 25th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Social Responsibility Awards where she will receive the "Trailblazer Award" in recognition of her tireless commitment to education, community and moving beyond racial barriers.

She was born in Los Angeles, California on November 24, 1912, the only daughter of Joseph and Sarah Anderson. In search for better opportunities, her family moved to Denver, Colorado, where Marie attended Denver West High School. Marie graduated third in her class in 1931 and received an honorary four-year state scholarship which she used to attend the Colorado Teachers College, now The University of Northern Colorado. As an African American student, Marie faced racism and was prevented from living on campus or joining student organizations. However, she sought membership in the Alpha Kappa chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the first national sorority founded for college educated African American women, and solidified her commitment to education.

Marie excelled at the Colorado Teachers College. She was recruited to teach in Denver Public Schools in 1934, a year before she was slated to graduate. Despite the opportunity to be the first African-American teacher in Denver Public Schools, Marie chose instead to finish her studies and graduate with the class of 1935. With a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education in hand, Marie was hired as the first to receive a probationary contract as a first grade teacher in the school system. In 1938, she accepted the offer of permanent tenure at Whittier Elementary School as the first teacher of color in the Denver Public Schools.

Marie continued to teach first grade at Whittier Elementary School until 1945 when she

took a leave of absence to raise her four children: Louise, Richard, William Jr. and James. As her family moved to a new home in 1950 near the Newlon School, the Greenwoods initiated the integration of the neighborhood. Their children became the first African Americans to attend Newlon and Marie and William R. Greenwood, Marie's husband, created the framework at that school for what we now know as a Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Marie organized a preschool program and became the first PTA president. In 1953, she returned to teaching as a primary grade substitute teacher with the desire to teach full-time at the Newlon school.

In 1955, in spite of the administration's alleged discrimination against minority teachers and their practice of assigning African American teachers only to schools in the then predominantly African American neighborhood of Northeast Denver, Marie obtained a regular teaching position at Newlon School. This was due, in part, to the PTA mothers who recognized Marie's proficiency as a teacher and advocated on her behalf. Her keen ability to relate to both students and teachers, along with her belief that every child can learn, earned her recognition as one of the best teachers in the Denver Public Schools. Marie retired from teaching in 1974, but completed her book "Every Child Can Learn", which looks back on her 30 years of experience and discusses the challenges she faced during that time.

The Denver community is fortunate to have such a strong role model and leader in Marie Louise Anderson Greenwood. She continues helping children and promoting literacy through the "Read Aloud" program, which has adult volunteers reading books to young children both in Denver Public Schools and at Denver Public Libraries. She has maintained her dedication to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for more than 75 years. Marie is also still active in her church. At 97 years old, her exuberance and spirit are reflected in her active involvement in the liturgical dance ministry of Shorter AME Church of which she has been a member since 1927.

Marie has been recognized by several organizations for her many years as an educator and overcoming prejudice throughout her career. She was honored in 1997 as a pioneer

in her field by The University of Northern Colorado Alumni Association, where a teaching scholarship has been established in her name. In 2001, the Denver Public Schools even built a school and named it the Marie L. Greenwood K-8 school in her honor. Race relations in America have not improved as quickly as we would ever hope, but without pioneers like Marie Greenwood leading the way, barriers would never be broken and dreams would never become reality. In advance of our annual commemoration of the life and lessons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., please join me in paying tribute to Marie Louise Anderson Greenwood for her life's work as a distinguished educator, public servant and social trailblazer.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MEMPHIS MUSIC ICON WILLIE MITCHELL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Willie Mitchell, a great Memphis music performer, producer, icon, and patriarchal figure to many jazz and R&B artists. Willie Mitchell was a great trumpeter, bandleader, and early in his career had worked with talented artists, including Otis Clay. After the passing of Joe Coughi, Willie Mitchell took over Hi Records on Lauderdale Street in South Memphis where he assembled house band Hi Rhythm and defined the sounds of O.V. Wright, Syl Johnson, Ann Peebles, and many others.

Willie Mitchell's greatest find could, arguably, be singer Al Green. As a great horn player and musician, Willie Mitchell was performing in Texas and Al Green was on the bill. He told Al Green, "Come back to Memphis and I'll make you a star"—and Willie Mitchell made it happen for Al Green. That happened often in Memphis someone saying,—"Come to Memphis and I'll make you a star." And then Al Green helped to unite the sounds of jazz and R&B to meet the demands of a new era of music. Speaking about Al Green, Willie

Mitchell marveled that "... of all the singers, he was the only one that could hear jazz changes and really sing in that style ... and it was just hit after hit."

Willie Mitchell's contributions and influence transcends the boundaries of place and time. Detroit's distinguished Motown Records, headed by Berry Gordy, Jr., sent a team down to Hi Records to learn the secret behind Willie Mitchell's sound. These sounds can still be heard in recent string and horn arrangements on Rod Stewart's newest album "Soulbook," a soon-to-be released album by legend Solomon Burke and in the current artistry of pop singer John Mayer, hip-hop artist Anthony Hamilton, and others.

Willie Mitchell received many awards including the 2008 GRAMMYS Trustees Award for a lifetime of achievements. In 2004, the portion of Lauderdale Street in front of Royal Studios in Memphis, which Willie Mitchell retained after the sale of Hi Records in the late 70s, was renamed "Willie Mitchell Boulevard" by the City.

Willie Mitchell was laid to rest today in Memphis. He gave people lots of love and happiness and reasons to stay together—he and Al Green. We'll all miss Willie Mitchell. I appreciate the fact that he came our way and helped produce the Memphis sound and became part of that great Memphis legend of soul music. He was loved by his musical community and by his family. He leaves two wonderful daughters, two grandsons who became his sons, a step-son and a musical history and tradition that will live on forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, today I missed rollcall vote No. 1, on a quorum call of the House. Had I been able to, I would have voted "present" on this rollcall vote.